

NSC BRIEFING

6 August 1958

NORTH AFRICA

- I. In Tunisia tension mounting between Algerian rebels of National Liberation Front (FLN) based there and Bourguiba regime. Could lead to early move by FLN, possibly in collaboration with Tunisian dissidents and Cairo, against Bourguiba who reiterated unequivocally his staunchly pro-American position in public speech on 25 July.**

1. FLN forces in Tunisia may outnumber and are believed much better equipped than 6,300-man Tunisian security forces.

- B. Rebels have become increasingly dissatisfied with Bourguiba--especially since his agreement in June with French company for trans-Tunisia pipeline for Algerian oil.**

1. FLN troops in Tunisia reported to be heavily influenced by Cairo radio and--especially since latest Middle East flareup--increasingly inclined toward Nasir and USSR.

2. Most top-level FLN leaders apparently remaining in Cairo although Bourguiba wants them to return to Tunis.

- C. Its apprehension rising, Bourguiba govt looking anxiously for new supplies arms and equipment. However, Tunis feels it cannot now accept French arms offers because of likely adverse reaction by FLN.**

1. But France still trying exert some control over material furnished by other potential suppliers. Other European countries apparently still deferring to French.
- II. In Morocco, King Mohamed V said to be depressed by Middle East events. He probably particularly shaken by liquidation Iraqi royal family and tide of nationalist extremism sweeping Morocco.

C. Moroccan Royal Army--numbering 31,000 and officered largely by French--and security forces (perhaps 10,000) headed by King's henchman reported loyal to King. However, probably cannot effectively quell widespread armed dissidence, particularly if dissidents have backing of UAR or other sources.

III. In Algeria, FLN reported planning "all-out" attack on Europeans soon. Such attempt might occur around 20 August.

A. But French now better able to protect themselves.

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